



August 11, 2008

Mr. David J. Gau, Deputy Director
State Board of Equalization
Property and Special Taxes Department
450 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Gau:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your letter dated August 6, 2008.

In response to the visual sighting of the word "mold", the LaCroix Davis inspector did observe the painted word on the west high rise elevator shaft wall. The information was shared and discussed with Hygiene Technologies International, Inc. (HTI). The Department of General Services (DGS) does not know who painted the word, when the word was written, or its intent.

The July 24, 2008 survey was performed to gain an understanding of how the elevator shafts were constructed, assess safety issues, and allow LaCroix Davis and the DGS to plan future investigation strategies. Please keep in mind no material sampling or air testing was performed by LaCroix Davis during the initial survey.

To date, LaCroix Davis has only performed the July 24, 2008, survey of the low rise, high rise, and parking structure elevator shafts. Based upon the survey, LaCroix Davis is scheduled to continue inspecting the elevator shafts the evenings of August 11, 2008, and August 12, 2008. The August 11 and August 12 inspections will not include any testing or destructive analysis of the elevator shafts. After completing these more detailed inspections, LaCroix Davis will provide a schedule for further surveying and sampling. Upon completing the building-wide elevator shaft investigation, LaCroix Davis will issue a written report with their findings and recommendations. HTI has completed significant air sampling of the conditions within the elevator cars and has indicated that these samples were non remarkable. It is our intent that LaCroix Davis will complete the elevator shaft inspection and recommendation portion of their contract as quickly as possible. It is not the intent of the DGS to have LaCroix Davis write a formal report after each review of the elevator shafts.

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**DEPUTY DIRECTOR
PROPERTY AND SPECIAL TAXES**

We recognize that a thorough review of the shafts will require several visits before there is a full understanding of the conditions at which time recommendations can be made. As usual, should the elevator shaft inspections reveal conditions that might affect the health or safety of the BOE staff, the DGS will notify the BOE immediately.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 376-4088.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Doug Button".

Doug Button
Deputy Director
Real Estate Services Division

cc: Ramon Hirsig, Executive Director, Board of Equalization
Liz Houser, Deputy Director, Administration, Board of Equalization
Charlene Yount, Chief, Administrative Support, Board of Equalization